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ELLESMERE PORT URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

BY  
K. C. KERSHAW,  
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

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# INTRODUCTION

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## *TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of again presenting this my Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1944. It should be noted that this year the restrictions on the grounds of national security, previously imposed, have now been lifted, and it has been thought advisable to enlarge somewhat on the details of certain sections of the report.

The vital statistics are as follows:—

Death rate 9.00 per 1,000 population; the death rate for 1943 was 10.01. The death rate for England and Wales (1944) is 11.6.

Birth rate 22.44 per 1,000 population; the birth rate for 1943 was 21.87. The birth rate for England and Wales (1944) is 17.6

Infant Mortality rate 34.3 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1943 was 71.3 and for 1942 35.8. The rate for England and Wales (1944) is 46.0.

A detailed classification of the causes of deaths under one year is given under the Senior Health Visitor's section of the report. Considerable vigilance is exercised in order that all necessary steps shall be taken to see that infants, especially those prematurely born or suffering from any physical defect, shall receive all possible care and treatment. Similarly with regard to Foster children and children for legal adoption, such children and the homes in which they have been placed are under the constant supervision of the Health Visitors, and on one occasion where it was found necessary, steps were taken to have the child removed to more suitable surroundings.

The Welfare Centre continues to be of service for the purpose of Maternity and Child Welfare. The Council is fortunate in being able to benefit from the services of a specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist for its Ante-natal clinics and of specialists in orthopaedics, eyes and ears, for children under five reported by the Medical Officer from his Child Welfare Clinics.



There is urgent need for an extension of the present arrangements whereby children from the Welfare Centre and children attended by their own private doctors in need of courses of convalescent treatment at the seaside should be able to obtain more speedy admission to the existing Convalescent Homes. Obviously the same factors which throughout the war have affected the lack of accommodation in our general hospitals equally apply to convalescent hospitals and the waiting lists for admission remain overcrowded until such time as building extensions can be contemplated.

For the same reason the Health Department continues to be concerned at the shortage of houses in the district and the increasing difficulty of even getting existing houses repaired. This factor is constantly hindering the efficiency of the Department and without doubt there is a deterioration in the standard of repairs to property. It is quite apparent that no improvement will be achieved until more man-power is made available for this important work.

The question of infestation continues to be dealt with satisfactorily, in that numbers of patients regularly present themselves at our Scabies centre for treatment, where facilities also exist for the treatment of verminous heads when these are discovered. Similarly this Centre is available for disinfection of verminous persons, where such are brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. Routine treatment of verminous heads is regularly undertaken at the two War-time Nurseries.

The attendances at the Ellesmere Port War-time Nursery show that the nursery has been working to full capacity. At Little Sutton the attendances have tended to decline during the year. The average daily attendance at Ellesmere Port was 39 and at Little Sutton was 22. It is to the credit of the staffs of both these Nurseries that the children always appear to be happy and well cared for and that mothers on work of national importance are keen to make full use of the nurseries for accommodating their children during the working day.

In December of last year the Council put into operation a scheme devised by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of a Home Help in families where the mother was laid up during her confinement. The one helper engaged for full time duties by the Council has been kept fully occupied, and the scheme has proved to be very acceptable.

The general health of the district has been good. There have been no outstanding epidemics of infectious diseases

during the year. Immunisation against Diphtheria is still carried on at monthly clinics both at Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton and during the year a number of children were immunised at special clinics held at the Elton school. The percentage of children in Ellesmere Port now effectively immunised is between 85 and 90 per cent, but the ideal of one hundred per cent., immunisation is our ultimate goal. In addition we are doing all we can to get children who have already been immunised to be re-inoculated after a lapse of five or six years.

It will be seen from the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of the report that the Council are now acting as agents for the Cheshire County Council with regard to Rat destruction as it affects agricultural land. The operation of this important branch of the Department has meant a considerable increase of work and responsibility but I feel that this has been justified by the results obtained. Negotiations will soon be opened with a view to the future policy of Rat Destruction, when it is to be hoped that this Council will endeavour to obtain full delegated powers.

Regular inspection and sampling of foodstuffs is carried out and particular attention is paid to the production of milk both as regards its cleanliness and bacterial content and the conditions under which it is produced, and a rigid standard of purity maintained.

During the latter part of this year the Civil Defence service was disbanded and I should like to take this final opportunity of thanking all those members, both full-time and voluntary, who throughout the time of their service were always available day and night for any emergency that may have arisen.

At the same time I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Health Department for their continued loyal co-operation, and to all other departments of the Council from whom I have had occasion to seek consultation and advice, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your faithfully,

K. C. KERSHAW,

*Acting Medical Officer of Health.*



# ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton, also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

#### *Medical Officer of Health :*

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

#### *Acting Medical Officer of Health :*

K. C. KERSHAW, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

*Orthopaedic Surgeon :* J. L. GILLET, M.B., CH.B.

*Aural Surgeon :* R. MARTIN, M.B., B.CH.

*Gynaecologist :* MORRIS DATNOW, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :* E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector :* J. P. GODDARD, Cert. S.I.B.  
(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :* W. CORNELIUS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*Clerk in the Department :* R. K. FRANCIS  
(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

*Shorthand-Typist :* MISS E. WHEELER.

*Temporary Clerk :* MISS R. LLOYD.

*Senior Health Visitor :* MISS M. B. REDFERN.

*Assistant Health Visitors :* MISS K. McKEE.

MISS L. M. BATE.

*Clerk, Welfare Centre :* MISS B. ISAACS.

All Officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Population...	27,220
Area (acres) ...	9,144
Number of houses in the area (1941)...	7,151
Rateable Value...	£200,047
Sum represented by the Penny Rate...	£820

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables:—

Year.	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 Pop.	Year.	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 Pop.
1929	17,580	14.5	1937	25,610	8.9
1930	18,300	14.1	1938	26,030	7.03
1931	19,080	15.0	1939	26,920	11.75
1932	19,320	14.2	1940	28,160	9.8
1933	23,190	19.5	1941	28,530	9.25
1934	24,730	11.6	1942	27,950	11.16
1935	24,840	9.7	1943	27,560	15.5
1936	25,100	10.9	1944	27,220	13.44

The Natural increase in Population (that is in excess of births over deaths) 1929—1944 (England and Wales).

Year	Per 1,000 Population	Year.	Per 1,000 Population
1929 .....	2.9	1937 .....	2.7
1930 .....	4.9	1938 .....	3.5
1931 .....	3.5	1939 .....	2.9
1932 .....	3.3	1940 .....	0.3
1933 .....	2.1	1941 .....	1.3
1934 .....	3.0	1942 .....	4.2
1935 .....	2.9	1943 .....	4.4
1936 .....	2.7	1944 .....	3.1

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General).

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate ... ..	269	296	565
Illegitimate ... ..	27	19	46
	<hr/> 296	<hr/> 315	<hr/> 611

Birth Rate 22.44 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population: (1944) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000 Census, 1931)—20.9.

## STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate ... ..	8	12	20
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 21

Still Birth rate 32.22 per 1,000 total live and still births or 0.77 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1929—1943 was 500.

## TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES 1929—1943.

Year.	Number.	Birth Rate	Year.	Number.	Birth Rate.
1929	426	24.5	1937	483	18.86
1930	435	23.8	1938	476	18.28
1931	458	24.0	1939	543	20.25
1932	442	22.9	1940	566	20.09
1933	467	20.1	1941	565	19.8
1934	518	20.9	1942	538	19.96
1935	470	18.9	1943	603	21.87
1936	503	20.04			



Birth Rate England and Wales 1944	... ..	17.6
Birth Rate England and Wales 1943	... ..	16.5
Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1943	...	17.0

DEATHS.

Males 124                      Females 121                      Total 245.  
 Death Rate 9.00 per 1,000 population.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CRUDE  
 DEATH RATES 1929—1943.

Year.	Number.	Death Rate.	Year.	Number.	Death Rate.
1929	174	10.0	1937	254	9.91
1930	178	9.7	1938	293	11.26
1931	169	8.9	1939	229	8.50
1932	171	8.9	1940	291	10.3
1933	222	9.6	1941	301	10.5
1934	231	9.3	1942	246	8.79
1935	229	9.2	1943	276	10.01
1936	227	9.0			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1929—1943 was 233.

The percentage of deaths occurring in Public Institutions was 52 per cent.

Death Rate—England and Wales 11.6 per 1,000 population.  
 Death Rate—148 smaller towns 12.4 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0	0
	0	0	0

The figures for England and Wales were:—

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.28
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	1.25
	<hr/> 1.53 <hr/>

*DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER  
ONE YEAR OF AGE.*

	Number.	Rate.
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	21	34.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... ..	17	31.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births... ..	4	87.0

The figures for England and Wales were:—

All England and Wales ... ..	46.0
148 smaller towns (estimated resident popula- tion 25,000—50,000 Census 1931) ... ..	44.0
126 County Borough and Great Towns (includ- ing London) ... ..	52.0
London (Administrative County) ... ..	61.0

*TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1929—1943.*

Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births
1929 .....	66.0	1937 .....	66.2
1930 .....	44.0	1938 .....	48.3
1931 .....	68.0	1939 .....	58.93
1932 .....	68.0	1940 .....	63.3
1933 .....	75.0	1941 .....	72.9
1934 .....	48.26	1942 .....	35.8
1935 .....	44.6	1943 .....	71.3
1936 .....	51.7		

Deaths from Measles (all ages	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	50

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

ALL CAUSES	Males.	Females.	Total.
1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2.—Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	1
3.—Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.—Diphtheria	2	2	4
6.—Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	2	5
7.—Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1	3
8.—Syphilis	2	—	2
9.—Influenza	1	—	1
10.—Measles	—	—	—
11.—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.	—	—	—
12.—Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—
13.—Cancer of the Mouth, Oesophagus. Uterus...	—	5	5
14.—Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	3	4	7
15.—Cancer of the Breast	—	4	4
16.—Other forms of Cancer	18	16	34
17.—Diabetes	1	5	6
18.—Intracranial Vascular Lesions	16	7	23
19.—Heart Disease	28	34	62
20.—Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3	4
21.—Bronchitis	5	5	10
22.—Pneumonia	2	4	6
23.—Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	2
24.—Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
25.—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	2
26.—Appendicitis	—	1	1
27.—Other Digestive Diseases	5	3	8
28.—Nephritis	4	9	13
29.—Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
30.—Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31.—Premature Birth	4	1	5
32.—Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc	5	3	8
33.—Suicide	1	4	5
34.—Road Traffic Accidents	3	—	3
35.—Other Violent Causes	2	1	3
36.—All other Causes	10	5	15
	124	121	245



# GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

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*The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.*

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The following services are available:—

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examinations of water; also the Bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District. Similarly the cost of the Bacteriological examination of throat swabs for suspected cases of Diphtheria, and the necessary investigation of any serious Infectious Disease epidemic is borne by the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester Laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 103.

There were 96 throat swabs of which one was returned positive and 95 negative, also seven nasal swabs all of which were returned negative.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 60. Of these four were returned positive and 56 negative.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, the Wirral Joint Hospital Board provides motor ambulances for the removal of patients and for the removal of bedding for steam disinfection.

(b) For non infectious and accident cases, the Urban District provides two motor ambulances for the use in connection with the District Hospital, Whitby. The Clatterbridge (County) General has four motor ambulances.

The Ambulance services are very satisfactory.

### *NURSING IN THE HOME.*

(a) *General.* There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation. During the year 1943 the services of a District Nurse were obtained for the Parish of Little Sutton. This now appears satisfactory.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases.* There are no arrangements made for nursing Infectious cases in the home, with the exception of Pneumonia.

### *CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.*

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened in Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic with the Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held in the Welfare Centre.

### *HOSPITALS.*

The Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital was appropriated for Public Health Purposes on the 1st April 1935, being formerly known as the Clatterbridge (Wirral) Infirmary.

*Maternity.* Owing to the war it has not been possible for this Welfare Authority to open a Maternity Home under its own supervision, but the lack of this facility continues to be most adequately met by co-operation with the County Council

who have always been willing to admit any of our maternity cases who are primiparae or abnormal pregnancies of any description to their maternity block at the Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital. In this block there are 34 beds.

In addition during 1944 there has been a separate Maternity Home, the "Garth", at Neston also under the supervision of the County Council.

The services of a consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist are available at the Ante-natal Clinic held weekly at the Welfare Centre and at any time if required in an emergency by a general practitioner in the district.

*Children.* Facilities exist for convalescent treatment of children needing such seen by the Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre. When such cases occur every endeavour is made to get them accommodated in the West Kirby Convalescent Home.

*Scabies.* The Scabies Centre opened last year at the Central Hall, Ellesmere Port, continues to operate on the same lines as last year, with the exception that the staff formerly loaned for the purpose from their Civil Defence duties are now employed in a part-time capacity by the Council. The staff consists of three nurses and a cleaner and at least four sessions a week are held. 515 new cases were reported last year and 3,372 treatments given.

*Head Lice.* The facilities are available at the Scabies Clinic for the treatment of Head Lice where this occurs in patients attending for treatment.

In addition each of the Wartime Nurseries have routine examination of heads and treatments are given as required, e.g. during 1944 56 heads were found to be verminous in the Nursery at Ellesmere Port and 29 in the Nursery at Little Sutton.

The treatment consists of routine washing with Derbac Soap and combing with a metal Derbac comb together with the use of the standard treatment of Lethane Oil as suggested by the Ministry of Health.



*Fevers.* The Wirral Joint Isolation Board serves the District for Infectious Disease Cases. The District of such Board comprises the Wirral Area of the Administrative County of Cheshire, including Chester Rural District.

The main Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Board is situated at Clatterbridge and has the following accommodation:—

24 Beds for Diphtheria.

26 Beds for Scarlet Fever.

12 Cubicles for Isolation, 14 beds.

3 small wards of 12 beds each, 36 beds to be used as required.

Provision has been made to receive Encephalitis patients and under certain conditions beds may be available for Measles and Whooping Cough.

*Ellesmere Port and District Hospital:* This Hospital contains 41 beds and eight cots. It is managed by a voluntary Board.

The staff consists of the Local Medical Practitioners, a Resident Doctor, a Matron, five trained nurses, three probationers and one Masseuse.

The visiting staff consists of one Physician, two Surgeons, one Gynecologist, one Ophthalmic Surgeon, one Aural Surgeon, one Radiologist and one Dentist.

Arrangements exist between the Hospital and the Council whereby children can be sent by the Medical Officer from the Welfare Centre for courses of artificial sunlight treatment.

### *MIDWIVES.*

There are sixteen midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

### *LEGISLATION IN FORCE.*

A list of local and general Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws is included in the report.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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## WATER.

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply practically all the entire area (with the exception of Ince), and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains, with the exception of a group of sixteen cottages in Stanney Lane which are supplied by three stand-pipes, a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one stand-pipe, and bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one stand-pipe, and a house in Little Sutton which obtains its supply from a private well.

At Ince, water is supplied by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936, through stand-pipes, by means of a bulk supply obtained from the Chester Rural District Council.

The water comes in piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. At the Hooton station the water goes through the softening process but at Prenton and Mouldsworth softening operations have been temporarily suspended.

During the year, 23 samples were taken for Bacteriological examination and five samples for Chemical analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of each of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample, taken at random, of water for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Hooton on 16th September, 1944, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 69 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample also taken at random, from

the pumping station at Mouldsworth on 3rd June, 1944, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other 14 samples for Chemical analysis made during the year, with the exception of the fact that all the samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton pumping stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

*BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE EXAMINATIONS  
OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.*

Received 12/9/44, from West Cheshire Water Board.  
Labelled: Hooton Pumping Station. Filtered, softened and  
chlorinated. Flamed tap in softening house.

Date: 11/9/44; 11-15 a.m. Taken by: C. Hardman.

Witness: T. Lunt. Signed: C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37° C. in one day ... ..	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37° C. in two days... ..	2
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20° C. in three days ... ..	2
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37° C. (Pre- sumptive Bacillus Coli Test) ... ..	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli ... ..	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B.Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) ... ..	Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a normal and very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of Bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed): E. V. Suckling.



# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS ON THE EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 31st May, 1944, from West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Mouldsworth Pumping Station—raw water—softening suspended.

Taken by: C. Hardman.      Witness: S. Crawford.

Date: 30/5/44; 4.30 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts  
per 100,000.

Appearance...	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright.
Colour ...	...	...	...	...	Normal. Odour Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	...	...	Neutral 7.6.
					Free Carbonic Acid 0.7.
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	1200				Alkalinity as calcium carbonate 19.0
Total Solids, 180°C.	...	...	...	80.0	
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	28.4		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	0.16		Nitrites absent.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	13.5		(Grains per gallon).
Hardness: Temporary	...	...	17.0		(Grains per gallon).
Total	...	...	30.5		(Grains per gallon).
Metals	...	...	...		Iron: 0.010 — Other metals absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.0048		Ammoniacal Nitrogen.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0000		Albuminoid Nitrogen.
					Free chlorine reaction absent.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	0.000.	

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board:—

- (1) *Particulars of any new source of public supply.*

None relative to this undertaking.

- (2) *Improvements to existing sources of public supply.*

Chemical and Bacteriological analysis reports throughout the year have been of satisfactory order, and distribution has been maintained throughout the district.

- (3) *Any important extension of mains.*

None.

- (4) *Have piped supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity ?*

There has been, and in some cases there still exists, a large demand for metered trade supplies, which have in some localities caused minor diminution in pressures, but generally speaking, relative to the area with which you are concerned, the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

- (5) *Is any part of the district in need of an improved water supply ?*

I am not aware of any complaints having been received relative to the general question of water supply in the Ellesmere Port area. Occasional complaints have been received concerning the hardness of the water.

LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE;  
(so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914.		
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890	... ..	Adopted
Private Street Works Act, 1892	... ..	1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, 4, 5)	... ..	1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4 and 6)	... ..	1909
Public Libraries Act, 1892	... ..	1907
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the District	... ..	1911
Public Health Act, 1925 (Part 2 except Section 20)	... ..	1937

Subject matter.	Authority by whom made.	Area in which in force	Date	Date of Confirmation
Libraries	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area	... 30/11/1936	... 13/1/1937
Pleasure Grounds	ditto.	ditto.	25/1/1937	... 31/5/1937
New Streets and Buildings	Ellesmere Port & Whitby U.D.C.	Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney	... 26/10/1925	... 12/1/1926
Tents, Vans and similar structures	Wirral R.D.C.	Parishes of Great Sutton, Little Sutton and Hooton	... 19/2/1923	... 5/4/1923
*Omnibuses	ditto.	ditto.	19/11/1923	... 15/1/1925
Buildings	ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	... 12/1/1925
Offensive Trades	ditto.	ditto.	17/11/1924	... 8/1/1925
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools	Chester R.D.C.	Parish of Ince.	... 28/2/1923	... 28/4/1924
Building Byelaws	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area	... 29/1/1940	... 11/7/1940

\*These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

### *Summary of Inspections.*

Nature of Inspections.	Result of Service of Notices and Number Served.				
	Number.	Informal.	Formal.	Compiled with.	Remaining in hand.
Dwelling Houses (General) ... ..	156	121	12	65	56
Revisits to work in progress ... ..	862	—	—	—	—
Schools ... ..	21	8	—	6	2
Back Yards ... ..	451	378	6	333	45
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks. etc....	11	1	—	1	—
Drainage Inspections ... ..	23	12	—	12	—
Drainage Tests ... ..	1	1	—	1	—
Ditches and Watercourses ... ..	59	7	1	7	—
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	4	1	—	1	—
Keeping of Animals ... ..	17	2	—	2	—
Food Premises ... ..	177	8	—	7	1
Factories (Mobile) ... ..	68	16	—	12	4
Factories (Non-Mobile) ... ..	7	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observation ... ..	1	1	—	1	—
Cowsheds ... ..	75	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Purveyors' Premises ... ..	59	1	—	1	—
Canal Boats ... ..	103	—	3	—	5
Infectious Diseases. Enquiries ... ..	141	—	—	—	—
Other Visits ... ..	31	—	—	—	—
Disinfections ... ..	170	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises ... ..	156	42	—	41	1
Disinfestations ... ..	245	—	—	—	—
Scabies. Enquiries ... ..	190	—	—	—	—
Other Visits ... ..	91	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations ... ..	106	87	2	89	—
Samples of milk submitted for Bacteriological examination ... ..	81	—	—	—	—
Interviews ... ..	173	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal Site ... ..	14	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	596	12	—	9	3
TOTALS ...	4089	698	24	588	115

## *PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.*

In six instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council to the Owners concerned, in respect of the non-compliance with Statutory Notices served upon them under this Act, prior to any legal proceedings being instituted against them. Four notices were complied with satisfactorily and no further action was necessary. Legal proceedings were instituted in one of the remaining cases and this was successful.

A prosecution is pending relative to the remaining notice.

Certificates have again been issued during the year to local builders in support of their applications to obtain controlled materials in order to carry out essential repairs to property in this district. Each application was successful.

Generally speaking, the housing conditions are causing no little concern to this Department in view of overcrowding and the inability to secure the completion of repairs to property. The latter is due to the shortage of labour available and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Health were approached during the early part of the year but were unable to give any assistance in the matter. In regard to overcrowding it seems quite apparent that nothing can be done to alleviate the problem owing to shortage of houses in the district. To ascertain the position with any degree of accuracy, it will be necessary to survey the entire area and it is hoped that during the year 1945 conditions may allow the Ministry of Health to give instructions for this to be done throughout the Country, with a view to the re-housing of these cases.

During the past twelve months 312 dust-bins were supplied and delivered to premises on receiving payments from the Owners in order to enable them to comply with Sanitary Notices.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises, 387 verbal complaints were made at the office during the year.

*ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.*

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a) Council Houses...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) Other Houses	...	...	...	...	25
(c) Number Disinfected	...	...	...		35
(d) Total Visits	...	...	...	...	110

The number of Council houses treated shew a decrease of seven over the previous year. The standard of cleanliness in certain sections of the district remains the same as reported upon in 1943.

The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed-bugs consists of (1) the removal of picture moulding, arch-traves and the skirting-boards, and whilst there are being removed a blow-lamp is used; (2) the walls, ceilings and floors, etc., are sprayed with a fluid insecticide (Zaldecide and Killgercide) with satisfactory results; (3) bedding is subjected to steam disinfection.

Further visits are paid at varying intervals up to three weeks and the house alternately fumigated and sprayed during this period.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority through the staff of the Public Health Department.

*STEAM DISINFECTION OF BEDDING.*

The arrangements in being with the Sanitary Department, Bebington, for this work continues to operate satisfactorily.

160 beds and bedding, and 80 blankets, excluding private firms, were removed for steam disinfection.



The cost for the year for this work was £46.16s.10d. (approximately). £21.15s.0d. was recovered from private firms, £3.5s.0d. from the Cheshire County Council, and 7/6d. from a private individual, in accordance with arrangements made with the Department. This gives an income of £25.7s.6d. against the expenditure of £46.16s.10d.

### *DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.*

There are two sewage disposal works in the district. The works at Little Stanney were newly erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town works, were re-constructed and designed for a population of 7,000. A small area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The Parish of Ince is rural in character and completely unsewered. The most recent dwellings erected in Ince are drained to approved septic tanks and filter beds, the effluent being discharged into the nearby watercourse.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the district during the year:—

Foul water sewers...	...	...	Nil. Lineal yards.
Surface water sewers	...	...	Nil. Lineal yards.
Total ...			Nil.

### *RIVERS AND STREAMS.*

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered by fenny lands and is tide-locked, where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

## *CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.*

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not yet available some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

## *SWIMMING POOL.*

The Rivacre Valley Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

## *SCHOOLS.*

There are seven Council Schools and five Denominational Schools in the district, all of which have been visited.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on the occurrence of cases of Infectious Diseases in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the school rooms are thoroughly disinfected.

## *CANAL BOATS.*

103 boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 325 adults and 80 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 181 adults and 67 children.

Three Statutory Notices were served and these remained in hand at the close of the year.

# H O U S I N G

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## 1. *INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.*

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	156
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	862
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932... ..	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	Nil.
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	Nil.
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	4

## 2. *REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.*

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	4
--	---



### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—       |      |
| (a) By Owners ... ..   | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority ... ..  | Nil. |

#### B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 12   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—               |      |
| (a) By Owners ... ..  | 8    |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..  | Nil. |
| (c) Remaining in hand... ..   | 4    |

#### C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... .. | Nil. |

#### D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, but tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | Nil. |

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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## *MILK SUPPLY.*

There are 34 registered cowkeepers, 14 dairies and 14 milk-shops in the district. In addition 16 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside and there are two registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

The Register shews the following entries:—

Cowkeepers (Wholesale Producers) ... ..	24
Cowkeepers (Retail Producers) ... ..	10
Dairies and Milk-shops... ..	28
<hr/>	
Total Registered Milk Dealers in the district...	62
<hr/>	
Wholesalers resident outside the district ... ..	2
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside ... ..	14
<hr/>	
Total number of Milk Dealers on the Register...	78
<hr/>	

Eighty-one samples of Milk were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Each sample taken at the farms was done so during the early morning milking and examined as follows:—

*Accredited Farms*—Standard for this designation plus examination for Tuberculosis.

*Commercial Farms*—Tuberculosis, *Bacillus coli* and Colony Count.

Of the 62 samples examined for Tuberculosis, 42 were reported negative. In the remaining 20 instances, the guinea pigs died too soon for an examination to be made. It is nevertheless, very pleasing to report no positive samples taken during the year.

Every attention has been paid to the Sampling of Milk in an endeavour to obtain a high standard of cleanliness both in production and handling. Of the 81 samples so examined, 55 or 68.6 per cent. were satisfactory. This shews an increase over the previous year's figure.

The closest co-operation in maintained with the Assistant County Sanitary Officer in matters relative to accredited farms and this is greatly appreciated.

Three dealers' licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

A complaint was received during the year of a bottle of milk being sold to a purchaser containing pieces of broken glass. The matter was investigated and a report given to the Health Committee when it was decided to issue a letter of warning to the farmer concerned.

### *FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.*

*Food Premises.* No applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review.

There are 58 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Careful attention has been paid to all food premises and 177 visits were paid during the year. The standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

Sixty-five special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the owners and the following foods were rejected:—

19 ( 6lb.) tins Meat. (Various types).	
22 (2½lb.) tins Meat. (Various types).	
53 (1½lb.) tins Meat. (Various types).	
53 (12oz.) tins Meat. (Various types).	
45 tins Vegetables.	26 tins Jam.
382 tins Milk.	6 tins Syrup.
116 tins Fish.	10 tins Fruit.

#### *Blown Tins and Decomposition.*

18 lbs. Self Raising Flour.	189 Eggs.
1½lbs. Suet.	4 cwt. Potatoes.
3 lbs. Wheat Flakes.	12¼lbs. Sausage.
2 lbs. Tea.	11 tins Pudding Mixture.
10 stone Fish.	49 packets Pudding Mixture.
5 stone Kippers.	9 jars Fish Paste.
100 lbs. Rice.	11 packets Soup Powder.

—Unfit for Human Consumption.

Total Weight (approximately): 13 cwts. 3 qr. 14lb.



## SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1944.

### *List of Samples obtained in the Ellesmere Port Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1944.*

Name of Sample.	Number of Samples obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirins ... ..	1	—
Baking Powder ... ..	1	—
Boracic Ointment ... ..	1	—
Cocoa ... ..	1	—
Chocolate Semolina ... ..	1	—
Cod Liver Oil ... ..	1	—
Camphor Ice ... ..	1	—
Chocolate Spread ... ..	1	—
Coffee ... ..	1	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt ... ..	1	—
Epsom Salts ... ..	3	—
Fish Paste ... ..	2	—
Flour, Self-Rising ... ..	1	—
Glauber Salts ... ..	1	—
Ginger Wine Essence ... ..	1	—
Glycerine and Borax ... ..	1	—
Ginger Ground ... ..	2	—
Glycerine ... ..	2	—
Iodised Throat Tablets ... ..	1	—
Lemon Squash ... ..	1	—
Milk ... ..	30	—
Malt Loaf ... ..	1	—
Meat Paste ... ..	1	—
Medical Paraffin ... ..	1	—
Mint Dried ... ..	1	—
Maderia Cake ... ..	1	—
Parsley Dried ... ..	1	1
Pepper ... ..	1	—
Sauce ... ..	2	—
Semolina ... ..	1	—
Seidlitz Powder ... ..	2	1
Syrup of Figs ... ..	1	—
Salt ... ..	1	—
Vinegar ... ..	3	—
	72	2

Only two of the samples failed to reach the recognised standard of quality, one a Seidlitz Powder which was 22 per cent. deficient in Tartaric Acid and the other a sample of Dried Parsley which was contaminated with arsenic. On investigating these matters it was found that the Seidlitz Powder had been in the chemist's shop a number of years and it was impossible for the original packers to trace the trouble. The Chemist was cautioned.

The Dried Parsley was traced back to the original manufacturers and the only possible explanation of the presence of the arsenic was that it was due to the fumes from the coke fire used in drying the Parsley. The manufacturers in this case were cautioned and they immediately withdrew all the stock remaining in the retailer's shop.

Taken as a whole the report should be considered very satisfactory, particularly from the milk supply point of view, bearing in mind that all the milk samples taken were found to be of good quality.

#### *RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.*

Negotiations in respect of this important work were concluded during the early part of the year under review and a scheme was put into operation for the district in April.

The scheme in effect provides that the Ellesmere Port Council act as Agents for the Cheshire County Council to operate the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and Infestation Order, 1943, as applicable only to non-agricultural land.

Whilst the scheme has worked smoothly, it is quite evident that in practise the separation of agricultural land from that of non-agricultural land results in overlapping and a tendency to lower the efficiency of the operations. In several instances, contracts have been entered into of premises adjoining farms when the latter have also been found to be infested. To prevent any re-infestation during the treatment and with the approval of the County Council, contracts have been completed with the farmers concerned.

The scheme of arrangements provides for further discussion in respect of delegation, six months after the conclusion of the war with Germany. It is hoped that this Council will endeavour to seek full delegation of powers from the County Council in accordance with the Rats and Mice Act, 1919, and operate the powers in their entirety.

As already mentioned, the scheme in spite of difficulties has worked quite well and a number of contracts have been made.

The total amount of contracts made from the inception of the scheme to the end of the year 1944=£266.9s.6d.

The amount of income applicable for this period is £118.4s.6d., whilst the estimated income to the 31st March, 1945, is £200. This will cover approximately 47 per cent. of the expenditure.

2,283 inspections were made by the rodent operatives and 148 poisoning campaigns carried out. The amount of "poison take" for the period was 28½lb. Zinc Phosphide, 25lb. 8¾oz. Arsenic and 2lb. 6oz. Red Squill. In addition, three treatments have been given with Cymag Gas.

It is not always possible to recover bodies after the use of poison and the efficiency of the operation is arrived at by the amount of "poison take" and subsequent prebaiting, nevertheless, 535 rats and 99 mice were found after various campaigns. The highest known kill on a particular campaign was 91 rats.

In addition to the surface work, a Direction Notice was served upon the Council by the Ministry of Food to carry out remedial action in respect of all sewers within the district, such Directions being universal throughout the County.

The work of the sewer treatment had been dealt with very fully by the Ministry of Food and detailed instructions were issued on the method of operation. It was felt however that



as regards this district, very little infestation of sewers, or none at all, was present and at a meeting held in Birkenhead of the Advisory Committee, permission was sought to carry out the work on the lines of "test baiting." After a deal of discussion and further interviews at the office, permission was given.

The "test baiting" revealed a minor infestation in a portion of the North East Ward, this was promptly tackled and poison bait laid, 12 dead rats being ultimately located at the Town Sewage Works. An inspector of the Ministry of Food was then detailed to inspect the work carried out and the Ministry revoked the Direction on the District.

This method of operation which was a departure from that of the Ministry resulted in quite a saving of expenditure to the Council, with the pleasing knowledge that at that time only two more authorities in the North West Region had been successful in having the Direction removed on similar lines.

## *PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.*

The Prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1933—1944 is shown in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population:—

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1933	0.00	1.15	1.55	0.00	0.38		
1934	0.00	3.39	4.45	0.08	0.32		
1935	0.00	10.50	8.60	0.00	0.56		
1936	0.00	3.82	5.06	0.04	0.27		
1937	0.00	5.85	7.77	0.00	0.16		
1938	0.00	13.7	9.08	0.15	0.26		
1939	0.00	3.30	2.08	0.14	0.33		
1940	0.00	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	0.00	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	0.00	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	.07
1943	0.00	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	0.00	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	0.62	0.47

The corresponding rates for England and Wales are as follows :—

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1933	0.02	3.21	1.18	0.04	0.45		
1934	0.04	3.76	1.70	0.03	0.51		
1935	0.00	2.96	1.60	0.04	0.42		
1936	0.00	2.53	1.39	0.06	0.40		
1937	0.00	2.33	1.49	0.05	0.37		
1938	0.00	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40		
1939	0.00	1.89	1.14	0.04	0.34		
1940	0.00	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	0.00	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	0.00	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	0.00	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	0.00	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49

There were no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1944. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births (live and still) is 10.34.

*NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944*

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified.	Total cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	70	63	—
Diphtheria .....	57	57	4
Pneumonia .....	2	1	—
Measles .....	17	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	11	—	—
Meningitis .....	2	2	1
Erysipelas .....	2	2	1
	161	125	6

Of the 57 cases of Diphtheria 28 were stated to have been immunised.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease	North East	North West	South	Whitby	Stanney	Victoria	Pool and Hooton	Childer Thornton	Little Sutton	Great Sutton	Grange	Ince	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	7	2	14	7	1	2	8	—	27	1	1	—	70
Diphtheria .....	7	1	18	3	—	9	3	—	7	3	6	—	57
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Whooping Cough.	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	4	2	—	—	11
Measles .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	5	1	—	3	17
Erysipelas .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3	—	—	3	1	—	2	3	1	1	17
Non-pulmon. do.	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	8
	18	6	36	12	1	16	21	4	47	11	8	6	186

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 year ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	...	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
5—15 years ...	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	...	...	...	3	6	—	1	2	1	—	—
25—35 years ...	...	...	...	—	5	—	2	—	—	—	1
35—45 years ...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—55 years ...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				6	11	3	5	2	1	1	2



TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1944.

Disease	TOTAL Cases	TOTAL Deaths	Total		0—1		1—2		2—3		3—4		4—5		5—10		10—15		15—20		20—35		35—45		45—65		Over	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	70	24	65	96	2	4	...	3	7	5	3	4	6	6	26	40	14	18	3	6	3	7	...	2	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria	57	26	31	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	2	2	3	5	8	10	5	2	...	...	3	4	...	1	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	11	4	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	17	9	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

# ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

---

Dr. J. A. Gillet reports as follows:—

I have the honour to report on the work done at the Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic Clinic during the 12 months ended December, 1944.

Nineteen sessions have been held at which 111 new cases have been seen and 350 re-examinations made—an average of 24 cases per session.

These figures are given below in greater detail:—

<i>New Cases—</i>				<i>In relation to School Age :</i>		
				<i>Under</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>over</i>
Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	56	53	—
Tuberculous	...	...	...	1	1	—
<i>Re-Examinations—</i>						
Non-Tuberculous	...	...	...	148	183	3
Tuberculous	...	...	...	3	11	2

Table 1 shows all cases on the Clinic register arranged into disease categories and age groups. The number of cases discharged are also shown, the reason for discharge being given.

The work done by the Massage and Remedial Exercise Department (twice weekly sessions) continued to give great help in preventive and curative treatment.

1108 treatments have been given to the 74 cases on the Massage Register, 52 new cases have been referred for treatment and 12 discharged.

It has not been possible to give the return for massage in Table 2 on the lines of previous years, as the figures are not available owing to the fact that the attendances have not been grouped into diagnosis.

# ELLESMERE PORT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

## Return for the Year 1944.

Visits by the Surgeon ... ..	19
Attendances by the Orthopaedic Sister ...	47
New Cases Examined ... ..	111
Re-Examinations ... ..	350

## Analysis of Cases.

New Cases :—	Under School		Of School		Over School	
	Age.		Age.		Age.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Tuberculous ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
Non-Tuberculous ... ..	31	25	21	32	—	—
Re-Examinations :—						
Non-Tuberculous ... ..	80	68	89	94	3	—
Tuberculous ... ..	3	—	4	7	2	—

## Massage and Remedial Exercise Department.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of Patients Treated ... ..	34	40	74
Number of Attendances of Cases ...	519	583	1102
Number of New Cases referred for Treatment ... ..	22	30	52
Number of Cases in which Treatment has been terminated ... ..	7	5	12

## Analysis of Non-Tuberculous Cases included in above Return.

	Under School		Of School		Over School	
	Age.		Age.		Age.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Attending School... ..	—	—	24	33	—	—
Not Attending School... ..	8	6	—	—	—	—
Attending Special School	—	—	—	—	—	—



TABLE 1.

DISEASE CATEGORIES	Remaining 1944 in relation to School Age			New Cases 1944 in relation to School Age			Remaining 1945 in relation to School Age			Discharged, 1944						Died
	Under		Over	Under		Over	Under		Over	Cured	Relieved	Over-age—Relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Unsuitable	
	1	5	1	1	3	—	1	6	—							
Infantile Paralysis	1	5	1	—	3	—	1	6	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Spastic Paralysis	1	2	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Rickets	2	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculous Osteitis & Arthritis	3	5	1	1	1	—	2	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Tuberculous do	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities—Congenital	23	11	—	9	5	—	16	10	—	4	1	—	2	5	—	—
Deformities—Acquired	46	42	—	35	40	—	48	49	—	23	1	3	3	25	11	—
Diagnosis	4	4	—	9	4	—	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
TOTALS	80	70	2	57	54	—	82	81	1	30	2	4	5	36	11	1

# MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following report is supplied by the Senior Health Visitor.

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS AND HEALTH VISITING.

During the year 632 births were notified, of these 21 were still-births.

235 of these occurred in Clatterbridge Hospital.

12 in Chester Nursing Home.

4 in Chester City Hospital.

3 in Greystones Nursing Home.

2 in Rock Ferry Nursing Home.

2 in Garth Nursing Home.

2 in Heathfield Maternity Home.

9 occurred in Maternity Homes in other parts of the country, where the mothers were staying at the time of birth.

Little Sutton Ward ...	106	Great Sutton .....	42
Victoria .....	104	North East .....	27
South .....	84	Ince .....	9
Whitby .....	73	Childer Thornton .....	9
Grange .....	68	Hooton .....	5
North West .....	55	Wolverham .....	2
Overpool .....	46	Stanney .....	2

9235 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the homes during the year as follows:—

First visits to infants ... ..	664
Revisits to infants ... ..	2712
Revisits to children 1—5 years ...	4823
Infant Life Protection visits ... ..	48
Incidental visits ... ..	493
Pre-Natal visits ... ..	495
	<hr/>
	9235
	<hr/>

Routine visits are paid at regular intervals to babies from the time the midwife finishes her attendance till the child enters school at five years of age.

Instructions and advice are given on the care and management of young children; diet, general rules of health, and hygiene—the primary object being the prevention of ill-health and disease. For this purpose information is given systematically on vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria. Minor ailments are dealt with, but in more serious conditions the mother is always advised to see her own doctor. Any sanitary defects found in the house are referred to the Sanitary Inspector. The advice of the nurse is often sought on matters relating to the family budget, economic difficulties and problems arising from war-time conditions.

All mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic are visited in their homes if they do not appear at the clinic at regular intervals.



## ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

437 mothers attended for the first time.

1708 further attendances were made.

17 mothers attended for a post-natal examination.

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2162 attendances in all.

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Percentage of attendance in relation to births 69 per cent.

Though the percentage of attendance at the Ante-Natal clinic shows a decrease the attendances have been higher. This is due to the fact that there have been abnormal cases, chiefly Albuminuria. These have had to attend more frequently. Their blood pressure taken, tests made, and advice given on diet etc. Some have been admitted for intensive treatment to hospital. All made a good recovery, one baby only being lost.

## STILL-BIRTHS.

21 still-births were registered—these were due to the following causes:—

Abnormality of Foetus	...	...	...	6
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	6
Asphyxia	...	...	...	2
No apparent cause	...	...	...	2
Pre-natal shock	...	...	...	2
Albuminuria...	...	...	...	3

Nine of these attended the Ante-natal clinic. In 11 cases their confinement took place in hospital.

Of the nine who attended the Ante-natal clinic,

4 were due to Ante Partum Haemorrhage.

2 to Abnormality of Foetus.

1 to Asphyxia, and

2 to Albuminuria who were admitted to hospital during pregnancy for treatment.

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

21 infants died under the age of one year.

10 children died between the age of one and five years.

The following shows the causes of deaths:—

<i>Under One Year</i>		<i>Over One Year</i>	
Immaturity ... ..	2	Ventricular Fibrillation...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia...	1	Diphtheria ... ..	2
Haemolytic Disease...	1	Convulsions ... ..	2
Convulsions ... ..	1	Haemorrhagic Diphtheria	1
Prematurity ... ..	2	Chronic Nephritis ... ..	1
Spina Bifida ... ..	1	Severe crushing of	
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	1	the skull	1
Misadventure ... ..	1	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1
Atelectasis... ..	2	Oedema Glottidis ... ..	1
Atelectasis Prematurity ...	1		
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	1		
Primary Broncho-			
Pneumonia	1		
Congenital Heart Disease	1		
Debility at Birth ... ..	1		
Pemphigus... ..	1		
Myocardial Failure ... ..	1		
Bronchitis ... ..	2		

Seventeen of these deaths occurred during the first three months, of these 16 died in the first month and 11 in the first week.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### *Diphtheria.*

545 children under five years were inoculated against Diphtheria.

225 schoolchildren were also done.

An arrangement is made with the Head Teacher to give the mother a consent form when the child enters school. If this is signed the teacher brings down her new children at the beginning of each term.

We are trying to send all children into school protected against Diphtheria. To this end we have achieved the rate of 85 per cent. made safe. This means that fewer schoolchildren have to attend the clinic for the first time, which accounts for the lower figure of attendance this year.

*Measles.*—49 children were visited.

*Whooping Cough.*—67 children were visited.

*Chicken Pox.*—8 children were visited.

### AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held monthly.

110 children attended for the first time.

Fourteen revisits were made making a total attendance of 124.

Children requiring daily attention respond quickly to treatment. Those who do not attend regularly are visited in their homes and encouraged to take advantage of the facilities offered.

49 of these treatments were given.

### ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Three sessions are held in two months on Monday afternoons.

Two sessions are held for massage and remedial exercises on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

A separate report is given by Dr. Gillett.

During the year we have sustained a great loss in the death of Dr. Hartley Martin, orthopaedic surgeon at this clinic for the past twenty years. His skill and charm of manner towards the children endeared him alike to parents and staff, and this has left us with a deep sense of loss.



## HOME HELPS.

This scheme has been in operation for one year and has proved of great value to a variety of families, ranging from well equipped homes to others less well provided for. For this reason the Home Help must be an adaptable person, full of resource and initiative, fond of children and able to manage them, a good cook, able when necessary, to make much out of little. The two persons so employed have had these qualities.

Most of the cases came evenly but on one occasion overlapping occurred for a few days. I applied to the Labour Exchange and I should like to record my satisfaction at the prompt attention received. An applicant was sent immediately and proved excellent.

Fifteen cases applied for the service covering a period of 30 weeks; three weeks were spent in sick leave, and eight weeks lapse between two appointments. The rest of the time was divided into odd days between cases when the Home Help was employed on duties at the Welfare Centre and the War-time Nursery.

## INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and once weekly at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons.

				LITTLE SUTTON
First visits of mothers	...	...	490	193
First visits of infants	...	...	376	156
First visits of children				
	1—5 years		146	45
			<hr/> 1012	<hr/> 394
Revisits of mothers	...	...	4584	2419
Revisits of infants	...	...	3784	2030
Revisits of children 1—5 years...			1055	546
			<hr/> 9423	<hr/> 4995

Percentage of attendances in relation to live births 84 per cent., an increase on last year.

831 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health.

Thirty seven children were referred to Aural, Orthopaedic and eye specialists, and to the Dental Clinic.

Ten children were referred to the District Hospital for Sun Ray Treatment.

244 consultations were held by the Medical Officer of Health in Little Sutton.

Eighteen children were referred to Aural, Orthopaedic and eye specialists, and to the Dental Clinic.

In co-operation with the Welfare Officer at the A.T.S. Camp who visited the Centre, 90 girls came in groups of 12 to a Welfare Centre Session. Many of these were young married women, others likely to be, so they were most interested in the work, moving from room to room in groups of four. We hope this will give some of them a new outlook on Public Health and its value to them when they become mothers.

It was with great pleasure that we revived the Christmas Party after four years of black-out. Fifty mothers and 70 children were entertained with tea, a display of dancing by Miss Grace's pupils and the appearance of Father Christmas who was able to give them all a little present. Our thanks are tendered to all who so generously helped us in the money and kind to make this an outstanding success, also due to the fact that many of these children had never been able to have a real party before—thanks to the war.

Once again I wish to place on record the sincere thanks of my staff to the ladies who give such willing and unstinted service to the mothers at the Welfare Centres, and ease the administration by their prompt attention to the duties they undertake.

They and we shall all be glad when the accommodation for the Welfare Centre at Little Sutton is worthy of the work that is done in that district.

## *INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.*

### *FOSTER CHILDREN.*

One foster mother remained on the books from the previous year, two others were entered. In each case the home and the children were under the supervision of the Health Visitor and all were satisfactory and well cared for. Two only remained at the end of the year as one was returned to its mother.

One child was found by chance being fostered by a most unsuitable elderly woman in a very neglected home. The relatives were visited advised and warned but in spite of this the child was left in the home and repeatedly found by the Health Visitor and N.S.P.C.C. Inspector in a dirty, naked and ill-fed condition. On account of this a report was made to the Clerk of the Council who wrote to the guardians and the foster mother pointing out the illegality of their actions and threatening them with proceedings. This led to the removal of the child who is now with its grandmother and in safe custody.

### *ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT.*

Nine children have been legally adopted during the year. In six of these cases the Maternity and Child Welfare Department was the link between the parents and the adopter. In those cases undertaken by the Adoption Society the Public Health Department have been notified and the Health Visitors asked to supervise the probation period before the adoption finally takes place.

The Adoption Society requires a report on the home before the baby is sent, monthly visits of the child when received, and in the cases of a child going out of the district a complete medical examination, often done by the Medical Officer of Health.



## THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

*Ministry's Circular No. 2866.*

In Ellesmere Port Urban District 41 illegitimate children were born in 1944. Of these unmarried mothers 28 attended the Ante-Natal clinic, the remaining 13 being under the supervision of the County Midwives in their own homes.

After birth all the children were under the care of the Health Visiting staff. One died at four months due to misadventure, and two were adopted by persons in other towns.

Of the remaining 38, seven were adopted by mothers in the town and 31 are still in their own homes with their mothers, some of whom go out to work, the babies being cared for by the grandparents.

Twenty-seven of the children attend the Infant Welfare Centre including the seven who have been adopted.

There is full co-operation between the Health Visiting Staff, the Education Authority, the Lancashire and Cheshire Adoption Society; that being the nearest Voluntary Organisation and the Girls' Home in Chester.

In all but one cases of adoption the Health Visitor was the link between the Adoption Society, the private adopter and the mother of the baby.

Hours of time have had to be given up to dealing with difficulties arising out of the care of these children and cases of adoption. Hardly a day passes without someone coming to the Centre for advice and help in connection with problems on these subjects.

## CLERICAL WORK.

### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

Notification of birth register is kept and a record card made for each child. Weekly returns of these births are made to the County Medical Officer and Registrar. Details of each visit are entered on the child's card and any reference to attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre, so that a complete medical history is given to the School Medical Officer on the child's first school medical examination. Six hundred odd births a year mean that 3,000 of these records are made. A daily record of visits is kept. In respect of some of these cases, letters and reports have often to be written.

### *Evacuees.*

The staff of this department was able to offer assistance to the billeting officer at the time of the arrival of evacuees from London. Our knowledge of the home conditions proved of service in placing many of the children satisfactorily and special attention was given to the dozen mothers and babies who came with the schoolchildren.

### *Welfare Centre.*

A register is kept and a record of each attendance, particulars of doctor's consultations and reference to other clinics.

### *Ante-Natal Clinic.*

A register is kept and a record card of each patient, history taken, tests made and blood pressure taken. Admission forms for hospital must be completed, sent weekly, checked on return and entered on the register. A medical certificate is given to each new patient in order that she may obtain her extra clothing coupons, milk, cod liver oil and fruit juice from the Milk Office. A survey is taken each month to ensure regular attendance.

### *Dental, Aural and Orthopaedic Clinics.*

Appointments have to be made, registers kept and records completed.

### *Infectious Diseases.*

Registers and records kept.

### *Infant Life Protection.*

A register is kept together with details of each child and its home environment. Much time is spent on interviews and correspondence in relation to these children, especially when adoption is contemplated.

### *Accounts.*

Last year nearly £1,600 was handled by this department. The sale of food entails a great deal of clerical work. Orders have to be sent, stocks checked, accounts checked and verified, signed and submitted to the Accountant, weekly returns made and registered. Interviews and telephone calls occupy a good deal of time for which there is nothing to show.

### *Home Helps.*

This scheme has involved a good deal of extra work, and if, as appears likely, the Ministry are adding the duties of a registry office, it will be necessary to make an addition to the staff.

I would not like to close my report without expressing my appreciation of the work of my colleagues, and in particular of the efficient and helpful way in which the clerical work is done in my department.





